

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A process for conducting an electronic survey, said process comprising the steps of:

creating an electronic survey;  
sending said survey to a plurality of users having different types of electronic interface devices; and  
accessing user data generated in response to said survey using at least one type of electronic interface device.

2. The process of claim 1 further comprising accessing said user data using plurality of types of electronic interface devices.

3. The process of claim 1 further comprising storing said survey on a first database and receiving said user data on a second database.

4. The process of claim 3 further comprising analyzing said user data prior to said step of accessing.

5. The process of claim 4 wherein said step of analyzing comprises analyzing said user data in accordance with criteria established by a creator of said survey.

6. A process for conducting an electronic survey, said process comprising the steps of:

(a) creating a survey by writing the survey materials and placing the survey materials into a first database as survey input data;

(b) wrapping each element of said survey input data with markup language tags defined in a schema to provide a collection of data in a markup language-wrapped document;

(c) publishing said markup language-wrapped document, wherein said survey input data are in the form of a collection of markup language-wrapped data, by parsing said markup language-wrapped data against said schema;

(d) sending the parsed, markup language-wrapped data in output defined style sheets to a plurality of types of interface devices via suitable communications networks;

(e) receiving survey response data in a second database via suitable communications networks;

(f) publishing the received data by wrapping the received data in a desired markup language document.

7. The process of claim 6 further comprising accessing said received data using at least one type of electronic interface device.

8. The process of claim 6 further comprising accessing said user data using plurality of types of electronic interface devices.

9. The process of claim 6 wherein said step of accessing is performed by a creator of said survey.

10. The process of claim 6 further comprising analyzing the received data prior to publishing the received data.

11. The process of claim 6 wherein said markup language-wrapped data are further validated against a pre-defined schema.

12. The process of claim 6 wherein said received data is further parsed against a second schema to enable the analyzed data to be accessed by at least one interface device type specified by a creator of the survey.

13. The process of claim 6 wherein said markup language is extensible markup language.

14. Apparatus for conducting an electronic survey, said apparatus comprising:

a first database for storing an electronic survey comprised of survey input data;

a publishing engine for sending said survey to a plurality of users having different types of electronic interface devices via suitable communications networks; and

a second database for receiving survey response data from said electronic interface devices via suitable communications networks, wherein said publishing engine further publishes said survey response data for access by at least one type of electronic interface device.

15. The apparatus of claim 14 further comprising means for analyzing said response data prior to publishing by said publishing engine.

16. The apparatus of claim 15 wherein said analyzing means analyzes said user data in accordance with criteria established by a creator of said survey.

17. The apparatus of claim 14 wherein, prior to sending said survey to a plurality of users, said publishing engine wraps each element of said survey input data with markup language tags defined in a schema to provide a collection of data in a markup language-wrapped document.

18. The apparatus of claim 14 wherein, prior to publishing said survey response data, said publishing engine wraps each element of said survey response data with markup language tags defined in a schema to provide a collection of data in a markup language-wrapped document.

19. The apparatus of claim 17 wherein said markup language is extensible markup language.

20. The apparatus of claim 18 wherein said markup language is extensible markup language.